

**"SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMPOSING,  
PROCESSING, AND ORGANIZING ELECTRONIC  
MAIL MESSAGE ITEMS"**

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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

10 In an electronic mail system environment, a system  
and method for automatically checking recipients' names,  
providing message flags, providing custom forms, and providing  
an autoresponse feature. Recipients' names are resolved in the  
background, while the user of the e-mail system is composing the  
message. The user easily resolves ambiguous names by using a  
context menu. The resolved ambiguous names are automatically  
used to create nicknames, which are used to resolve ambiguous  
15 names in the future. Message flags allow a sender or recipient to  
identify required follow-up action and a deadline. The recipient  
may use the message flags to quickly determine which messages  
require follow-up action. The e-mail system notifies a recipient  
when a due date is approaching or when a follow-up action is past  
20 due. A custom forms feature allows a user to create and share  
custom forms without requiring the form to be published or  
installed by other user. The custom form's attributes are  
transmitted to the recipient as an element of the e-mail message.  
An autoresponse feature allows a sender to create a message that  
25 includes voting buttons corresponding to the possible responses to  
a query. A recipient replies by selecting one of the voting  
buttons. The recipient's vote is automatically tallied in the  
sender's copy of the message, thus allowing the sender to view a  
vote tally, a list of the recipients, and their response.  
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